

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Celebrating African American/Black History Month in the 221st Base Support Battalion Observance celebrates diversity of Americans

By Junel Jeffrey
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Beginning in 1926 as "Negro History Week," African American/Black History Month has evolved into an annual observance that seeks to formally educate the public about the achievements and contributions of black Americans during the month of February.

African American/Black History Month offers the community an opportunity to learn about the rich culture and traditions of African Americans, said Sgt. 1st Class Rickey Siggall, Equal Opportunity adviser for 1st Armored Division.

"It's important to conduct ethnic observances, because they give the community a platform to learn

about different cultures," said Siggall. "African American/Black History Month is a way to honor those achievements and recognize the different cultures and traditions within the 28-day period."

A Black History Month Talent Show will be held Feb. 18 starting at 6:30 p.m. at Wiesbaden's Taunus Theater at the Hainerberg Shopping Center. Singers, musicians, comedians and dancers will perform and doorprizes will be handed out. The event is sponsored by local Equal Opportunity Offices.

In addition to attending formal activities offered throughout the community, Siggall recommends continuing African American/Black History Month education through various methods at home. It is espe-



cially important for parents to talk to their kids about the annual observance so that the traditions and customs will endure.

"Parents can go on the Internet, play trivia games or get books that depict blacks in a positive light," Siggall said. "You could also talk

about some of the roles that blacks are playing on television and about the positive or negative impact that the individuals on the show have on the black community."

"The importance of ethnic observances is that it reminds us every single month and day about the

diversity in the United States and the U.S. Army. That's where we draw our strength," said Lt. Col. Christopher Franks, 221st Base Support Battalion commander. "Every group brings character. The Army has been able to pull those strengths together, and that's what makes our Army the strongest army in the world."

"If we continue to do everything the same way, it will continue to stay the same. Therefore no improvement or advancement would ever take place," Siggall said. "By doing something a different way and accepting differences, we may realize that there are better ways of doing things. I think that accepting differences provides an opportunity to make an individual better."



Alexander Hand, age 10, gets a taste of life as a Soldier while attending weapons training with the 302nd Military Intelligence Battalion with his father on Groundhog Job Shadow Day Feb. 2.

Youths get view of work

Story and photos by Nicholas Bryza
Special to the Herald Union

Working in the intelligence field, Soldiers don't get a lot of chances to bring their children to work with them, much less, let their children shadow them. But on Ground-

hog Job Shadow Day, the 302nd Military Intelligence Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company allowed children to work with their parents by planning a special day just for them.

Teaching children a little about the Army day-to-day and just what Soldiers do, the youths got a hands-on experience starting with physical training, weapons familiarity, safety and functions, lunch at the dining facility and a tour of the company's motor pool.

Coordinated with Department of Defense Dependents Schools, the Groundhog Job Shadow program gives children a chance to see what Mom and Dad do everyday when they head off to that place they call work. (Editor's note: Nicholas Bryza is a second-grade student at Hainerberg Elementary School who participated in the Groundhog Shadow Day program.)

Photo left: Staff Sgt. Rodney Begley, assigned to the 302nd Military Intelligence Battalion at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, explains the safety and functions of his weapon to daughter, Nicolette, during weapons training. The training was held in conjunction with Groundhog Job Shadow day Feb. 2 when children were allowed to accompany their parents to see what the working world looks like.



Photo by Charlie Fontana

Dracula at Playhouse

In "The Passion of Dracula" an uneasy Professor Van Helsing, portrayed by Jack Paramore, attempts to rid mankind of the evil vampire, played by Sergio Caldarella. The production can be seen at Wiesbaden's Amelia Earhart Playhouse Feb. 17-20 and 24-27. For information and ticket reservations, call mil 336-2473 or civ (0611) 816-2473.

Postal customers risk losing mailbox privileges

By Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Checked your mail lately? If you haven't, you may find that you no longer have a mailbox in which to receive mail.

A handful of postal customers have discovered that as well as suspended privileges because of not checking their mailbox more frequently.

"When mail is left unclaimed for more than 30 days we are under guidelines to return the mail to the sender and close the box," said Capt. Steven Meredith, 221st Base Support Battalion postal officer.

Meredith explained that before closing a box, attempts are made to contact the sponsor.

"If we can't get ahold of the

individual we ask the unit for assistance. Maybe that Soldier is TDY or on leave and forgot to notify us," Meredith said. But when the unit fails to respond and mail continues to be unclaimed, the box is closed, mail returned and the customer receives a 30-day suspension of privileges.

After the suspension the sponsor can reapply for a new mailbox, but if the problem continues, the sponsor can receive a one year suspension.

"The suspension doesn't mean that they cannot receive any mail at all. They can receive mail through

general delivery, but again, if it goes unclaimed after 30 days it will be returned to the sender," Meredith said.

"When mail is left unclaimed for more than 30 days we are under guidelines to return the mail to the sender and close the box." — Capt. Steven Meredith, 221st Base Support Battalion postal officer

Postal customers who go on temporary duty, approved leave or know they will not be able to check their mail regularly should contact the mailroom before leaving so that mail can be placed on hold or complete a form to allow someone else to pick up their mail. Unit commanders or first sergeants can also contact the mailroom when a Soldier is unavailable to do so to prevent box closure or mail being returned to sender.

Upcoming events

Open boxing tourney

The Tony Bass Fitness Center hosts an Open and Novice Boxing Tournament Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. Boxers can register the day of the fight from noon to 3 p.m. For more information call mil 337-5541 or civ (0611) 705-5541.

PWOC study series

Starting Feb. 15 the Protestant Women of the Chapel will host a six-week study series every Tuesday from 6-7:30 p.m. and Thursday from 9-11:30 a.m. To sign up or for more information on PWOC activities call mil 337-1570 or civ (0611) 705-1570.

Youth screenwriting class

Youths age 12 and up who are interested in learning how to structure a story for movies or television have a unique opportunity to attend a screenwriting class held through Child and Youth Services. Classes begin Feb. 25. Each class session builds upon the previous session; therefore, no late sign-ups will be accepted. For more information call mil 337-5383 or civ (0611) 705-5383.

Luncheon at Rheinlander

The Rheinlander Club at Dexheim's Anderson Barracks hosts a Women's History Month luncheon March 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. No reservations are needed unless you have a large group.

Special performance

Wiesbaden's Amelia Earhart Playhouse presents Giessen's Keller Theater production of "The Belle of Amherst" at 7:30 p.m. March 4-5. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and can be purchased at any Wiesbaden area USO office.

Iron marathon set

Runners of all ages are invited to partici-

pate in the MWR Iron Soldier Half Marathon March 19 at 10 a.m. The race will begin and end at the 1st Armored Division Headquarters at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. Register no later than March 4 at the Tony Bass Fitness Center. For more information call mil 337-5541 or civ (0611) 705-5541.



File photo

Bi-Okoto dancers perform at Dexheim Elementary School last winter.

Drum performance

Armed Forces Entertainment, in conjunction with Morale, Welfare and Recreation, hosts Bi-Okoto, a drum and dance theater group, Feb. 25. All are invited to catch the free show at 1 p.m. at Dexheim Elementary School. The dances range from slow to intensely energetic movements that are bound to keep feet tapping and hands clapping. For information, call mil 334-5220/5852 or civ (0613) 69 220/852.

Children's art classes

Römer Arts Center offers a variety of children's programs for youths age 9-13. Enjoy claytime from 3:30-5:30 p.m. or art from 4-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays; crafts from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays and sewing from 1-4 p.m. Sundays. Youths can also join the musical performance "Songs of Broadway." Rehearsals will be held from 4-5:30 p.m. through March 16. For more information call mil 337-5722 or civ (0611) 705-5722.

Job fair

Army Community Service hosts a Job Fair March 18 from 9 a.m. to noon at the ACS cafeteria in Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing. For more information call mil 337-5754 or civ (0611) 705-5754.

Father-daughter dance

Girls and dads — get ready for a special date night. The 221st Base Support Battalion Chapels sponsor a father-daughter dance April 23 at the middle school gym from 7-9:30 p.m. Invitations are available at the Hainerberg Chapel. For reservations and more information call civ (06127) 99 2140 or send an email to sexton@t-online.de.

Playhouse performance

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse presents "A Thousand Clowns" March 31 through April 10. Tickets for this comic performance can be purchased at any Wiesbaden area USO or at the playhouse. For more information call mil 336-2473 or civ (0611) 816-2473.

Flea market

The Community Activity Center hosts monthly indoor flea markets. Sellers can rent tables for \$10 on a first-come, first-served basis. Flea markets will be held Feb. 26 and March 19. Doors open at 8 a.m. Call mil 337-5750 or civ (0611) 705-5750 for details.

Gaming fun

The Community Activity Center hosts game night every Thursday at 5 p.m. If you enjoy playing board games such as Monopoly, Yahtzee, Taboo, Pictionary, Battleship, Scrabble, Risk and others, then Thursday is your night. Bring a friend or challenge others.

New customs rule affects Americans overseas

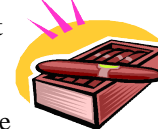
By Robert Szostek
U.S. European Command Customs Office

Cuba is one of several countries that is embargoed by the United States. This means that not only are cigars and rum banned from import, but U.S. citizens in third countries are breaking U.S. law by purchasing or using products of Cuban origin while abroad.

"The Treasury Department reports that many people try to smuggle Cuban cigars into the United States," said Michael L. Burkett, director of the U.S. EUCOM Customs and Border Clearance Agency. Burkett warned that penalties for attempted smuggling include confiscation of the items, civil fines of up to \$65,000 per violation and possibly criminal prosecution resulting in fines of up to \$250,000 and up to 10 years in prison.

Other countries do not ban Cuban products which are sold openly throughout Europe, said Burkett. However changes to the Cuban Assets Control Regulations now prohibit U.S. citizens abroad from purchasing or using Cuban products. These bans extend to cigars made in other countries with tobacco grown in Cuba.

Full details of the Cuban cigar regulations are available online at www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/sanctions/ccigar2.pdf.



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Photo right: Having been invited to participate in Mainz-Kastel's Fasching parade, American youth participating in the 221st Base Support Battalion's Dare program follow behind their float waving American flags and handing out candy to spectators. The float was provided by Hollmans Autohaus in Mainz-Kastel.



Photos by Cassandra Kardeke

Fasching fun

Twins Gabriella and Matthew Bryza, age 3, enjoy their first Fasching parade in Mainz-Kastel Feb. 5. Equivalent to the American Mardi Gras, Germans celebrate Fasching in the days before Ash Wednesday.



Soldier concerns top conference issues

By Cassandra Kardeke
221st Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Internet access in the barracks and consumer protection for U.S. personnel overseas — these were among the many issues discussed during the 221st Base Support Battalion's 2005 Army Family Action Plan Conference.

"This is the only program that takes issues and concerns from within the community directly to our leaders," said Shana Perry, AFAP coordinator, following the end of the conference which was held Feb. 2-4 at the Wiesbaden Community Activity Center.

Separated into four groups focusing on housing, family/Soldier support, consumer support and medical/dental support, about 50 AFAP delegates researched and reviewed over 100 issues submitted to the BSB over the past few months. By the end of the conference delegates decided on the top eight issues and then briefed ways for improvement to area commanders and leaders.

The top eight issues submitted to commanders were:

- ◆ Adding broadband Internet access in barracks.
- ◆ Additional meal options for Soldiers.
- ◆ Barracks upgrade program.

- ◆ Child care availability.
- ◆ Consumer protection for personnel overseas.
- ◆ Erosion of basic housing infrastructure.
- ◆ Establishment of continental U.S. license plate system.
- ◆ Medical facility hours of operation.

Of the eight issues, funding topped the list as to the hold back on several programs, including a 1995 Secretary of Defense initiative referred to as the Barracks Upgrade Program in which the ratio is one Soldier per room.

"We're seeing funding crises throughout the BSBs and installa-

tions all over," said Erick Creuz, a housing group AFAP delegate. "IMA's [Installation Management Agency] distribution of funds is a significant shortfall of funds to maintain what we currently have. The funding allocation needs to change and the money released for this program," he said.

Lack of funding was also attributed as the reason for substandard maintenance, repairs and services causing the erosion of housing infrastructure.

"You have all done well," said Lt. Col. Christopher Franks, BSB commander, to the delegates at the end of the conference. "All issues

submitted were good issues, and just because some didn't make it to the top eight, does not mean they won't be looked at."

Now that the conference is over, commanders and directors will work

on issues that can be completed locally and forward those that need further approval to higher headquarters. Look for AFAP updates in the *Herald Union* and BSB website www.wiesbaden.army.mil.

221st BSB — Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Community news notes

Bank closure

The Community Bank at Wiesbaden Army Airfield will close at noon Feb. 16 for quarterly staff training. Regular hours will resume Feb. 17.

Dexheim classes

Army Community Service in Dexheim sponsors employment readiness workshops, newcomers' coffees, resume writing, newcomers' bus tours and sponsorship training throughout the month of March. For more information call mil 334-5716.

Parenting help for newbies

The New Parent Education and Support Program offer a three-part series of workshops for new or

soon-to-be parents. The series topics include: Childbirth experience — dealing with discomfort in labor; Breastfeeding — getting started and being successful and Postpartum/Newborn care and safety. Registration is required for these workshops. Call mil 338-7835 or civ (0611) 532 9842 for more information.

Breakfast at McCully Club

The McCully Club now offers breakfast Monday through Friday from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Enjoy all your breakfast favourites — pancakes, eggs, bacon, omelettes and hash browns.

Instructors needed

Child and Youth Services is looking for instructors to teach martial arts, dance, music and drama as a

part of the new Schools of Knowledge Inspiration Exploration and Skill program. For more information call mil 338-7592 or civ (0611) 380-7592.

Parent support

The New Parent Education and Support Program offers classes and assistance to parents in the Wiesbaden and Dexheim communities. Playgroups are available in Building 7005 in Crestview Housing Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and at the Army Community Service building in Dexheim Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. The Birth, Breastfeeding and Beyond classes are offered from 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays from March 15-29 in Crestview. The New Parent Support Program provides home visits for new and expectant mothers of children up to age 4. Call mil 338-7835 or civ (0611) 380-7835 for information.

Tax assistance

Free tax preparation is available at the Wiesbaden Tax Assistance Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The TAC is located above the Wiesbaden Shoppette, down the hall from the Barber Shop. Walk-ins are accepted; however, those with more complicated tax returns should call ahead to make

an appointment. All U.S. identification card holders are eligible for this free assistance. For more information or to make an appointment call mil 337-4755 or civ (0611) 705-4755.

Quiet hours

Remember, in Germany, quiet hours are Monday through Saturday from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. and all day Sunday and Germany holidays. The use of lawn machinery or playing of loud music is prohibited from 7 p.m. to 9 a.m.; 1-3 p.m. and after 5 p.m. Be a courteous neighbor.

Yearbook sales

Aukamm Elementary School's Parent Teacher Association is currently taking orders for yearbooks. Yearbooks are \$15 each. Order forms are available at the school's main office. Volunteers are also needed to assist in putting the book together. For more information call civ (0611) 505-5706.

Thrift Shop open

The Wiesbaden Community Thrift Shop is open every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4-7 p.m.; Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month. Consignments are only accepted on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Volunteers are also needed. Call civ

(0611) 74261.

Discounted meals

Pick up a coupon book at the Rheinlander Club in Dexheim for discounts and specials on lunch and dinner deals being offered through January.

Ski rental

Get your ski or snowboard equipment maintained or rent equipment you need from 221st Outdoor Recreation Centers in Wiesbaden and Dexheim.

Positions open

Food service workers are currently needed at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Dexheim and McCully Barracks dining facilities. Wages start at \$10.25 an hour. For more information call mil 337-7004 or civ (0611) 705-7004.

Andrews Federal Credit Union has career opportunities throughout the community for branch and Euro-AFCU Headquarters positions. Log on to their website at www.andrewsfcu.org for more information.

The American Arms Hotel is hiring front desk clerks and custodial workers for housekeeping. For more information call mil 338-7883 or civ (0611) 343 667.

222nd BSB — Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg

Claims walk-in service Feb. 22

Because of a U.S. Army Claims Service Europe assistance visit Feb. 23, the Claims Office will be closed that day for walk-ins. Instead the walk-in service will be offered Feb. 22 to file your small claim or turn in your pink form with fewer than eight damaged items. The Claims Office is located in the Baumholder Legal Center, Building 8222. Call mil 485-6507 or civ (06783) 6-6507.

Become an officer

A 222nd Base Support Battalion Officer Candidate School Board will be held March 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the large classroom in Building 8475. The board is open to qualified enlisted Soldiers interested in becoming commissioned officers. For more information contact Sgt. Melissa Reeves or Chris Macri in the BSB Headquarters, Building 8698, or call mil 485-6788. All packets must be completed and submitted to the 222nd BSB Adjutant's Office by March 2.

Pregnancy and Postpartum P.T.: mil 485-7306

The Health Promotions Office offers Physical Training for pregnant and postpartum Soldiers. P.T. programs are held at the Mountaineer Fitness Center Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays, expecting Soldiers have an educational class in place of P.T. For more information contact the Health Promotions Office at mil 485-7306.

Army Community Service news: mil 485-8188

New ACS hours

Army Community Service now has new hours on Thursdays. They are open from 1-5 p.m.

Army Family Team Building

Feb. 22-23, Level III, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Family Readiness

The Family Readiness Liaison Council meets Feb 17 from 8-10 a.m. Call mil 485-8542 or send an email to mari.haley@104asg.mwr.army.mil for more information. Limited child care will be available with advance registration.

Marriage Enrichment

Feb. 15, 22 — Maintaining Love in a Healthy Relationship, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Feb. 16, 23 — Happily Ever After — Adjusting to New Marriage, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Feb. 15 — Love and Intimacy

Happenings

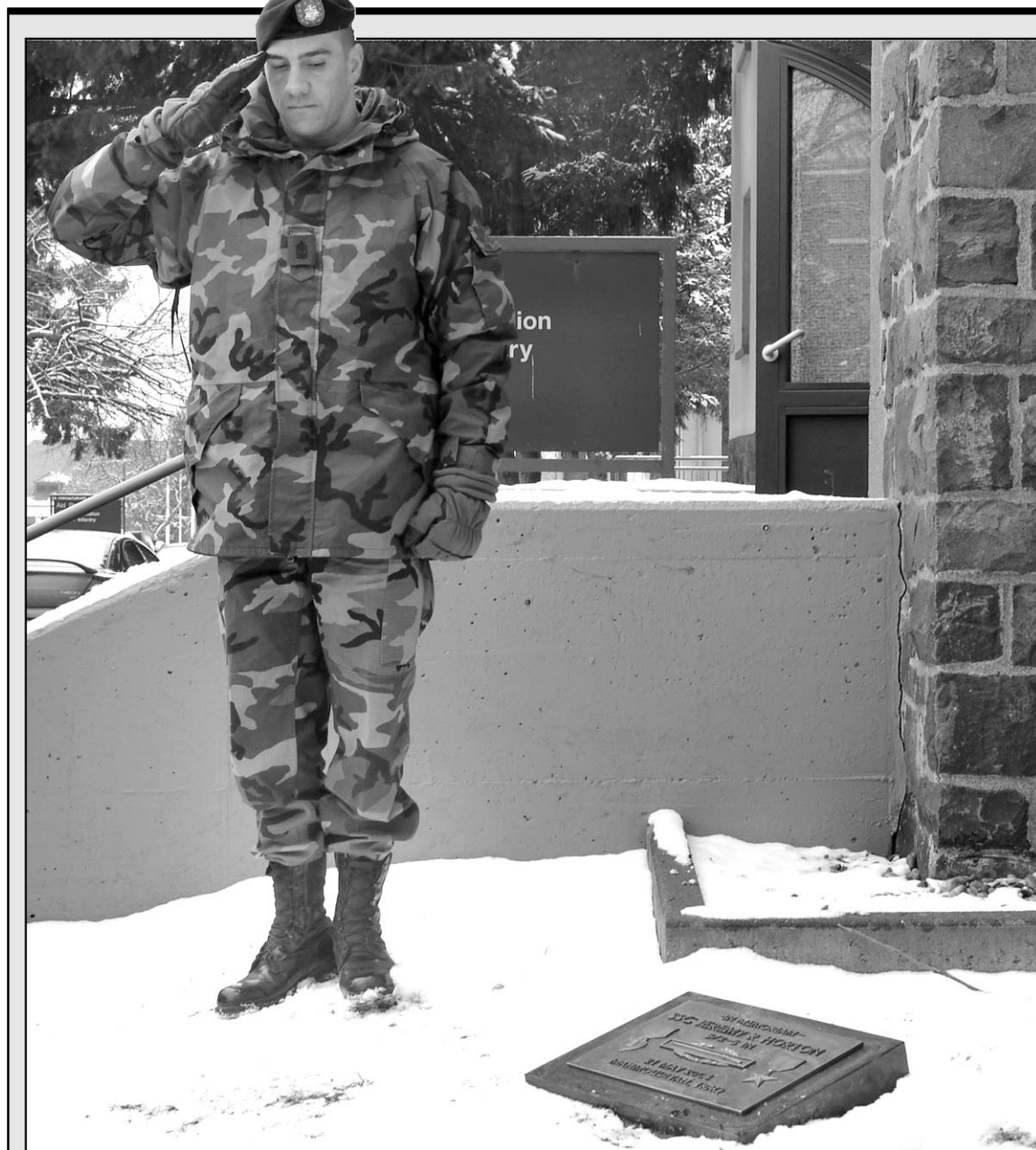


Photo by LeAnne MacAllister

Paying tribute to a fallen comrade

1st. Sgt. Joseph Coto salutes a memorial dedicated to Staff Sgt. Jeremy Horton. Horton died in Iraq in May 2004. Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry, came together to honor Horton's service at Bravo Company headquarters Jan. 28.

Feb. 16 — Our Foundation, Sand or Stone?

Feb. 18 — 25, Anger Free Living, 9-11 a.m.

Feb. 22 — What it Means to Be Married

Feb. 23 — What's Your Love Language

Feb. 28 — Divorce Support Group, noon to 2 p.m.

Job ready

Feb. 15 — PCS Pre-Employment Class, 10 a.m. to noon. This class will teach you how to start seeking employment before you move to your next duty station.

Feb. 22 — 10 Steps to a Federal Job, 10 a.m. to noon. Learn to navigate through the federal job system.

Feb. 25 — Resume Writing, 10 a.m. to noon.

Cash management

Feb. 15, 22 — Successful Money Management, 2-4 p.m. Participants will learn how to identify, solve and avoid problems, make a spending plan and select and manage credit.

Feb. 16 — Living and Saving on a Shoestring, 9-11 a.m.

Feb. 23 — His Values, Her Values, Our Money, 9-11 a.m.

Newcomers

A Families Learning About Germany orientation will be held Feb. 15-16 at 8:30 a.m. The course provides an opportunity to become acquainted with Germany. Get practical experience in using the German train and bus systems. Limited free child care will be available.

Parenting

Feb. 17, 24 — Boot Camp for Dads, 2-4 p.m. This is a four week program for new dads.

Feb. 16, 23 — Coffee Break, 10-

11:30 a.m.

Feb. 15, 22 — Nurturing Parenting, 10 a.m. to noon

Feb. 28 — Nurturing Parent With Child, 3-5 p.m.

Feb. 17, 24 — Nurturing Program, 10 a.m. to noon

Feb. 18, 25, 28 — Parent and Tot Playgroup 10-11:30 a.m.

Life coaches

Professional counselors are available to provide support and

guidance if you are dealing with conflict, worry or difficulty in or outside your home. Counselors are available to meet with you when and where you are most comfortable. Contact Army Community Service to schedule a meeting at mil 485-6604/8188.

Looking for help

Youth Services is looking for volunteers, youth and adult, to assist with special interest clubs and sporting and recreational events.

Youth Activities

Torch Club

Torch Clubs are chartered small-group leadership and service clubs for boys and girls age 11-13. A Torch Club is a vehicle through which club staff can help meet the special needs of younger adolescents at a critical stage in their development. Torch Club members learn to elect officers and work together to plan and implement activities in areas such as service to club and community, education, health and fitness and social recreation.

Keystone Club

Keystoning is the boys and girls movement's most dynamic teen program. Keystone Clubs are chartered small-group leadership and service clubs for boys and girls age 14-18. Keystoners elect officers and plan and implement their own activities in six areas that cover service to club and community, leadership development, education and career exploration, unity, free enterprise and social recreation. Keystone Club members and their advisers are eligible for nomination to steering committees which organize regional and national Teen Supreme Keystone Conferences attended by thousands of Keystoners each year.

Teen Sports Club

The Teen Sports Club is a teen leadership group that promotes health, fitness and sports related careers in boys and girls clubs. Members meet on a regular basis to learn about issues in and outside their club related to sports and fitness. Club members age 13-18 volunteer at least 25 hours as referees, coaches or in other athletic department support roles.

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Baumholder receives CFC recognition

By LeAnne MacAllister
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The Combined Federal Campaign results are in and Baumholder is a golden example. According to Sgt. 1st Class Tracey Boyd, 222nd Base Support Battalion CFC coordinator, almost every unit in Baumholder received a medal for outstanding participation.

"The 222nd BSB topped out over all other BSBs in the 104th Area Support Group," said Boyd.

Credit is given to chain of command

involvement. Thanks to their efforts 100 percent of Soldiers in Baumholder were contacted about CFC.

Outstanding units included the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, which raised a total of \$39,420. The second highest total was brought forth by the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry with \$24,216.

In terms of participation rates, the 92nd Military Police Company had 100 percent participation, while Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery, had an 85.89 percent participation rate.

Members of the Baumholder community contributed a total of more than \$218,000, up from \$33,414 last year. Although it seems like quite a jump, Boyd noted that donations are measured based on Soldiers in garrison. A separate tracking system is used for Soldiers when they are downrange. Thus, the overall

participation rate fell from 63.55 percent last year to 56.57 percent this year.

"I hope to see our participation go up in next year," said Boyd. "I'd like to see 75 percent. I believe tragedies like the tsunami make people more generous and more apt to give."

Free help at Tax Center

Federal tax filing deadlines are swiftly approaching.

The Baumholder Tax Center, located in Building 8670, next to Community Bank, offers tax assistance preparation for federal and state income taxes, as well as electronic filing. The advantages of electronic filing are that it is more accurate than paper returns and you get your refund faster, usually within four weeks, officials said.

The BTAC offers free tax service to all service members, their family members and eligible Department of Defense and Department of the Army civilians. Internal Revenue Service-trained personnel will prepare both federal and state returns. Why pay a commercial preparer when the BTAC is free?

The BTAC operates from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday. The BTAC is also open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon on Feb. 5,

12 and 26, and will open on Saturdays in March and April if there is sufficient demand for tax services. Be sure to sign in by 3 p.m. each weekday and by 11 a.m. on Saturday to have your taxes prepared that day. Tax returns will be prepared on a walk-in basis. Appointments are available for more complex returns.

You must bring your W-2s, Social Security cards for all persons listed on the return, ID card, any 1099 forms and a valid power of attorney if filing married filing joint and both parties are not present. A copy of last year's return would be helpful but is not required. Upon arrival at the BTAC, you will be asked to complete a simple questionnaire. This questionnaire enables the BTAC staff to quickly expedite your tax return.

If you have any questions concerning BTAC call the legal assistance office at mil 485-6908.



Photo by LeAnne MacAllister

Commissary shopping spree winner

Shopping Spree winner Staff Sgt. Steven Giuffre rushes through the aisles of Baumholder Commissary. Giuffre was one of two winners to receive a three minute shopping spree. Items in his cart exceeded \$2,000.

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Club leaders can attend Sports Leadership Camps in each of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America's five regions after completing their 25 volunteer hours. For more information contact your local youth center.

Instructors sought to teach Youth Services classes

Youth Services is looking for instructors to contract in instructional areas such as martial arts, gymnastics, music, tennis and more. For details call mil 485-7276.

CYS: mil 485-7003

Child care offered for special events

Child care is available for events in the Baumholder community. The cost is \$2.50 an hour per child, \$2.75 an hour per child after 5 p.m. and on weekends. This service is subject to availability of staff. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services. Call mil 485-7393 for more information.

Outdoor Rec: mil 485-7182

Baumholder's Outdoor Recreation Center offers the following trips: Feb. 19, 4 a.m. to 11 p.m., **Black Forest ski trip to Feldberg**, \$65; Feb. 25-27, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., **Switzerland ski weekend to Interlaken**, \$125; March 4-6, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., **Garmisch ski weekend**, \$195; March 11-13, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., **Switzerland ski weekend to Interlaken**, \$125; March 17-20, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., **Austria ski weekend to Gastein**, \$315; March 26, 4 a.m. to 11 p.m., **Black Forest ski trip to Feldberg**, \$65; April 16, 30 and May 14, 3 a.m. to midnight, trip to Keukenhof Tulip Garden in the Netherlands, \$85.

Paintball action

Paintball games are offered at the Rolling Hills Campgrounds, Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$12 rental or \$9 field fee (using own gear). Paintballs are available at field.

Library services

Baumholder Library features a collection of 26,000 books, audio and video products, CD ROM reference, online services and 155 magazines and newspapers. Special services include a reference section, children's section, automated U.S. Army Europe library system, CD-ROM computers, Internet connection, word processing services, printers, online catalog computers, coin-operated copiers and typewriters. More than 75 new DVD titles were recently added to the library's collection and more are expected. The library is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed on Fridays.

Striker's: mil 485-6569

Strike Zone

Enjoy lunch Mondays through Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. at the Strike Zone or stop by the lounge on

Sundays for NFL Football.

Athletic club: mil 485-6156

Aerobics schedule

The following aerobics classes are offered — Mondays, Wednesdays, **Beginning Step/Toning**, noon; Tuesdays, Thursdays, **Beginning Step/Toning**, 7 p.m.; Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, **Step Aerobics**, 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays, **Step/Toning Aerobics**, 9:15 a.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays, **Water Aerobics**, 9:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Fridays, **\$1 Family Swim**, 5-8 p.m.; Fridays, **Dog Day Friday** featuring Clifford, the inflatable hound 3-5 p.m.

Golf course Pro Shop: mil 485-6156

The Pro Shop is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The driving range lights stay on until 8:30 p.m. daily.

Photo studio

Make your appointment for Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday from 2-8 p.m. or the last weekend of each month from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call mil 485-8793 for more information.

More happenings

222nd BSB – Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg



Abrams tanks and other vehicles line up for the Intermediate Staging Area inspection process at Baumholder's south washrack before shipping out to Hohenfels.

Roll out: 2nd Brigade Soldiers head to Hohenfels

Story and photos by
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The 1st Armored Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team departed for the Combat Maneuver Training Center Feb. 8. Before leaving, the 222nd Base Support Battalion and 2nd Brigade conducted inspections to ensure all equipment was safe and Soldiers were ready to deploy.

Weapons systems underwent a thorough check at the Installation Staging Area, situated at Baumholder's main washrack. Upon approval, vehicles rolled on to the railhead or prepared for convoy movement. Track vehicles go by train to Hohenfels, while most wheeled vehicles will travel in convoy.

The ISA process is comprised of six stations. Each station ensures a different part of the vehicle, or its

upcoming process preparation, is checked. Quality control is infused from start to finish, officials said.

"At station one Soldiers guide in their vehicles," said Capt. Bill Butler, 222nd BSB Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment commander. "They are given a brief orientation, and vehicles are checked for obvious problems — showstopper stuff. If they have a problem here, they have to head back to their motor pool and fix it before moving on."

At station two Soldiers present all transportation and hazardous material documentation. Without current documentation, their equipment cannot be loaded onto a train and sent to Hohenfels or any destination necessary for training or deployment. Additionally, in order to exercise preparation for future combat deployments, shipping

documentation is also checked.

Track vehicles and wheeled vehicles are split into two different inspection tents in station three. Vehicles are checked for maintenance deficiencies such as leaks and other mechanical flaws.

By the time the vehicle makes it to station four, the railhead or convoy is in their reach. The vehicles are either re-fueled or de-fueled depending on the mode of transportation used in moving the equipment.

Station five is the final clearance at the washrack. Vehicles go through another document check and inspection. "Basically station

five is implemented for quality control to ensure all other stations did their jobs," said Butler.

Units load vehicles onto trains with precise measurement and great care or prepare them for convoy movement in station six. Bradleys and other large track vehicles rolled on to platforms one by one, until each train was filled and departed; then the next train was moved in for loading. Simultaneously individual battalions managed the convoy preparation at various locations.

With the assistance of the 222nd BSB, Directorate of Logistics staff, German Railway officials, numerous German contractors, the col-

laborative process of moving out equipment went smoothly for the 2nd Brigade. In addition, the Soldier Readiness Program had been provided weeks before to prepare Soldiers medically, financially and legally for time away from garrison.

About 750 vehicles headed to CMTC by train or convoy. Some Soldiers were sent with trains to guard equipment and begin unloading at Hohenfels. Others traveled with convoys or on buses.

Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade will spend approximately one month at the CMTC. ISA will kick back up again in March for the deployment of Division Artillery to CMTC.



After passing inspection, vehicles and equipment are loaded onto trains in preparation for transport to the Hohenfels Training Area.

Americans join Baumholder Fasching fun

By Helen Williams

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Rosenmontag is the highlight of the Fasching season. It is always the Monday before Ash Wednesday and, in Baumholder, there is a parade dedicated to children. This year it took place Feb. 7 through the main streets of Baumholder at 11 minutes after 2 p.m.

The parade began at the volunteer fire department and ended at the Brühlhalle. Children gathered for the celebration and participated in activities including dancing and singing.

The parade is not only for the locals; many Americans, such as the Girl Scouts, participated this year. Everyone was welcomed at the parade — either in marching or by observing. Bystanders lined the streets of Kennedyallee and the Hauptstrasse and waited for the paraders to toss candy and other goodies. All were invited to attend the “after” party at the Brühlhalle.

Earlier in the week U.S. and German military leaders met at Camp Aulendorf to open the Fasching season with their own celebration. The Baumholder Fasching prince and princess were present and in keeping with tradition all official power was rendered to the



Photo by Madeleine Dwoiakowski

Three Fasching kings of Baumholder — Prince Andreas (from left), Lt. Col. Jurgen Muhr and Lt. Col. James Larsen — celebrate the Carnival season at Baumholder's Camp Aulendorf.

Prince and the Princess for the remainder of Fasching. Americans and Germans alike joined in song and dance. Some, including Lt. Col. James Larsen, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, were seen donning the traditional Fasching hat.

Fasching is a celebration that starts on the

11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour of the 11th minute or—in layman's terms—Nov. 11. The Fasching weekend is determined by the first full moon of the year. Six weeks after the first full moon the Fasching weekend begins and continues through Rose Monday. The season ends on Ash Wednesday.

In the United States, Americans participate in a similar celebration known as Mardi Gras. While Americans are more familiar with New Orleans and Fat Tuesday, Baumholder locals welcome Rose Monday. Although oceans apart, Baumholder celebrates in similar fashions. Many people paint their face, wear funny wigs, display large red noses and other fancy attire. It's also important to pick up the lingo. Fasching goes replace regular greetings with “Helau.”

On Feb. 5 celebrants gathered at the Brühlhalle to watch the skits, dancing and singing; an annual performance that is presented by the Baumholder Fasching Club.

Fasching Club

The Baumholder Fasching Club's president and committee members play a special role. The group determines the theme and assists with naming royalty. Prince Andreas and Princess Barbara were crowned on Nov. 11 and “Back to the Future” was 2005's theme.

Fasching is a wonderful way to immerse oneself in German culture. But beware. Germans take their fun seriously; don't be surprised if you are stopped on your way to work at 6:30 a.m. as a part of their campaign to prevent drunk driving. Germans like to party into the wee hours.